

What is claimed is:

1. A license plate holding bracket attached to a tailgate arranged at a rear end of a cargo bed of a vehicle to perform a reciprocal and rotational movement and for setting up the bed in a closed state when the tailgate is in a vertical state and for setting up the bed in an opened state when the tailgate is in a horizontal state, comprising:

a gate side fixing member fixed to the tailgate;
a plate holding member for holding a license plate;

and

a rotational movement mechanism for connecting the plate holding member to a gate side fixing member in such a way that the plate holding member freely performs a reciprocal and rotational movement and that the plate holding member make the license plate to take a parallel state or an erecting state against the tailgate.

2. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the plate holding member has a stopper member brought into contact with a rear bumper of the vehicle when the tailgate is in the horizontal state and when the license plate almost erects on the tailgate.

3. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in

claim 2, wherein:

the stopper member contacts the tailgate when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate.

4. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the stopper contacts the gate side fixing member when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate.

5. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

the stopper is made from an elastic material.

6. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

each of the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member has a plain shape, and an end side of the plate holding member in a predetermined direction is connected to the gate side fixing member so as to make the plate holding member perform a reciprocal rotational movement.

7. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 6, further comprising:

a lock mechanism with a latch arranged in a side of the plate holding member and a striker arranged in said

side of the gate side fixing member for locking the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member and detachably for engaging with the latch when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate; and

a biasing member for exerting a biasing force on the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member to separate these members from each other when the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member are locked by the lock mechanism.

8. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

a resin member for covering a surface of the plate holding member in a side of the gate side fixing member.

9. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 8, wherein:

the plate holding member has a hole therein and a hook formed in the resin member to engage with a periphery of the hole, and the resin member detachably engages with the plate holding member.

10. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:

a fixing member arranged to detachably engage with the plate holding member for fixing the resin member.

11. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

the fixing member contacts the tailgate when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate.

12. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

a welded bolt arranged in the plate holding member for passing through a holding hole formed in the license plate; and

a nut for screwing to the bolt.

13. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a lock mechanism for locking the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate,

a first end of a stay attached to the gate side fixing member for performing a reciprocal rotational movement;

a member with a groove formed along the plate holding member, through the groove:

a pin arranged on said side of a second end of the stay being passed; and

a pin engaging member for engaging with the pin when

the plate holding member erects,

wherein the plate holding member is supported by the stay when the plate holding member erects on the gate side fixing member.

14. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, wherein:

the rotational movement mechanism has a structure for the pin being placed at the first end of the groove when the plate holding member is in parallel with the gate side fixing member and the pin being placed at the second end of the groove when the plate holding member almost erects on the gate side fixing member and wherein the stay performs a reciprocal and rotational movement from a state where the stay is in parallel with the gate side fixing member by an angle exceeding 90 degrees when the plate holding member erects on the gate side fixing member, and wherein the second end is formed to be bent toward a center of the rotational movement of the stay.

15. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a lock mechanism with a latch arranged in a side of the plate holding member and a striker arranged in said side of the gate side fixing member for locking the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member and

detachably for engaging with the latch when the license plate is almost in parallel with the tailgate; and

a biasing member for exerting a biasing force on the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member to separate these members from each other when the gate side fixing member and the plate holding member are locked by the lock mechanism.

16. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a resin member for covering a surface of the plate holding member in a side of the gate side fixing member.

17. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

the plate holding member has a hole therein and a hook formed in the resin member to engage with a periphery of the hole, and the resin member detachably engages with the plate holding member.

18. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

a fixing member arranged to detachably engage with the plate holding member for fixing the resin member.

19. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in

claim 18, wherein:

the fixing member contacts the tailgate when the license plate is in parallel with the tailgate.

20. The license plate holding bracket as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

a welded bolt arranged in the plate holding member for passing through a holding hole formed in the license plate; and

a nut for screwing to the bolt.

21. A license plate holding structure of a vehicle, comprising:

a tailgate arranged at a rear end of a cargo bed of a vehicle to perform a reciprocal and rotational movement and for setting up the bed in a closed state when the tailgate is in a vertical state and for setting up the bed in an opened state when the tailgate is in a horizontal state;

a gate side fixing member fixed to the tailgate;

a plate holding member for holding a license plate;

and

a rotational movement mechanism for connecting the plate holding member to a gate side fixing member in such a way that the plate holding member freely performs a reciprocal and rotational movement and that the plate holding member make the license plate to take a parallel

state or an erecting state against the tailgate, the plate holding member having a stopper which contacts a rear bumper of the vehicle when the tailgate is in a horizontal state and the license plate almost erects on the tailgate,

wherein a receiving cavity for receiving the stopper is formed in the tailgate to face the license plate holding bracket.